



Bike Newton Candidate Questionnaire

Questionnaire Intro:

Bicycling concerns are inextricably linked to a number of issues, including transportation and recreation generally, but also to concerns of climate, housing, land use, health and wellness, healthy aging, affordability, commuting, and mobility justice. This Candidate Questionnaire, developed by the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition and Bike Newton, is designed to explore how candidates for public office view and approach these interconnected issues.

Candidate Name: Councilor Lisle Baker

Office Sought in Election: Ward Councilor, Ward 7

Campaign website: <https://councilorbaker.org/>

Campaign social media accounts: None

Tell Us Your Story

1. Which of the following modes of transportation do you use regularly?

- Car
- Green Line
- Commuter Rail
- Bus
- Bike
- Mobility Device
- Walking
- Ride Share
- Moped/Motorcycle
- Scooter
- Carpool

I drive, walk, and use the T in that order, with an occasional ride share.

2. Do you think Newton has sufficient safe cycling options in our city? If not, what do you see as some of the biggest challenges related to safe bicycling in Newton?

I do not have enough knowledge to answer these questions properly. Readers should be aware that in the City Council we divide our work, and I serve on the Zoning and Planning and Programs and Services Committees which do not focus on most of the issues involved in this questionnaire and we do not reach them unless and until they become ripe for specific action by the City Council.

3. What specific actions will you take to address these challenges?

See above.

4. Do you support the completion and implementation of Newton's Walk, Roll and Bike Network Plan? If so, how will you work to support the completion of this plan??

Again, I do not have enough knowledge to answer these questions properly.

5. If you could choose where to place protected bike lanes or separate trails, what would be your top priority locations?

Again, I do not have enough knowledge to answer these questions properly.

6. Bicycle infrastructure and safety improvements cannot be implemented without adequate funding. Would you support an annual allocation from the City of Newton budget of at least \$1 million per year dedicated towards implementation of the Walk, Roll, and Bicycle Network Plan?

Again, I do not have enough knowledge to answer this question properly.

7. Emissions: Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts (40%). At the same time, congestion rates have quickly returned to pre-pandemic highs. Do you see the issues of climate and transportation as connected, and if so how would you work to align them?

I assume transportation and climate are connected, but I do not know enough to be able to say how I would align them, even assuming the key factors are within the power of one City Councilor.

8. Resiliency: Infrastructure in Massachusetts needs to be built to withstand our climate future — our bridges and roads, as well as bus and transit service, are crucial in the event of climate emergencies and in meeting long term climate goals. What specific

actions will your office take to influence local and state agencies to improve our climate resiliency and meet our climate goals?

As Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee, I have supported the Climate initiatives that have come before the Council, but I do not have enough knowledge to answer these questions properly.

9. Access to Health and Wellness: Walking and biking improve mental and physical health; however many recreational destinations are out of reach for people with disabilities, or for people without a personal automobile. How will you work to provide access to recreation for all people?

These questions are broad, so I am not sure to answer them properly. As I mentioned, I used to ride my bike to work in Boston when I was younger but do so no longer. I was instrumental in getting the Newton to acquire the Waban Hill Reservoir which became the Waban Hill Reservoir Park at Heartbreak Hill, to my knowledge now the only place in Newton someone with a disability can walk or use a wheelchair around water at grade, including assuring a parking space at the point of access for those with disabilities. I encourage readers to try it out.

10. "Vision Zero" is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Do you believe that Newton should adopt Vision Zero?

- Strongly Support
- Somewhat Support
- Neither Support nor Oppose
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

Explanation:

I do not have enough knowledge to answer these questions properly.

11. Automated Enforcement (i.e., speed cameras and red-light cameras) is one key strategy that has been proven to effectively reduce speeding, improve safety, and remove racial bias in traffic enforcement in other states. Would you support automated enforcement legislation that allows Newton to opt-in to a speed or red-light camera program?

- Strongly Support
- Somewhat Support
- Neither Support nor Oppose
- Somewhat Oppose

- Strongly Oppose

Explanation:

Again, I do not have enough information to answer this question properly.

12. The school trip by car in Newton contributes roughly thousands of trips per day to Newton's streets. This contributes to substantial auto congestion around drop-off and pick-up times. Is this an optimal configuration for our schools, roads and sidewalks? If not what would you propose?

Again, I do not have enough information to answer this question properly.

13. Safety around schools has been a top priority for city transportation planners. Many of our new schools have been designed to protect children walking and biking to school, and additional changes have been made around existing schools--particularly eliminating drop-off loops for parent/guardian cars. Do you support these changes? If so, do you have any proposals to extend/improve these changes??

Again, I do not have enough information to answer this question properly.

14. A significant safety concern is drivers of private vehicles who violate school campus rules or city and state traffic ordinances. Our police department is unable to enforce because officers are often covering crossing guard locations (hiring remains an issue). How can you as a member of the School Committee help to alleviate this issue?

Again, I do not have enough information to answer this question properly. Also, I am not running to be a member of the School Committee.